1/1/68

Dear Helen,

Just as I was leaving the house Wednesday, five days ago, I got a phone call from a man identifying himself as with the Tampa afternoon paper. I understood him to be Tony. He apparently waited until after the deadline for that issue had passed (and so specified) to phone me. He had been spoken to by Thornley's lawyer and given an entirely distorted representation of a number of things, was kept in the dark about others.

He said it was too late for that issue but would write one including what I told him for the next day's. This is sort of like securing the murders I have stopped beating my wife, on whom I have never laid hand in anger. He also promised to send me copies of the stories and of what he had been given by this lawyer, particularly the picture. Had he used any express it would have been as dependable. I have had nothing.

Because these misrepresentations have a way of being misused over and over again, that being the only side that is heard, I would like to have copies of everything they publish. By the way, I told him he was to get in touch with you so he could see Thornley's testimony and the exhibit including his picture, which Baum then could compare with Thornley's later representation of his assessination-time appearance. Was he long this?

On Wednesday I am leaving for New Orleans for a short trip. If Baum sends me anything, he will send it to me at home and it may not come until after I leave. I think it is possible this was all designed to embarrass me, so if you could please send us copies there, c/o Louis Lyon, I would appreciate it and I could then give them copies, which they should have.

Baum was surprised to know that neither Thornley nor his lawyer had ever been in touch with me about anything, agreed that Thornley looks like Oswald, that the manner in which I asked this checking be done was guaranteed to prevent misrepresentation or entrapment and was a legitimate means of inquiry. I wonder what his story said! I challenged him to arrange any face-to-face confrontation on this, told him Thornley had shunned it when offered by Bob Buerk, which my wife accepted for me in my absence, and ended his con broadcast there without complaint against me. He was even more astounded when I told him the offer I had made to Thornley through his agent, that I would preserve for him all the literary rights to his knowledge if I could talk Canning to it by my knowledge of the evidence. There were witnesses to this. He was surprised when he learned the real relations between Arbara Gill and "X", and that "X" certainly did know about that awful voodoo "altar" in her home, having helped her prepare it for the TV cameras and a show she was working on!

I've been to Dallas and New Orleans since last I wrote, going to Dallas right after I phoned you. The trip was very successful. Sorry I can't go into it now, I'm that far behind my usual arrears. Have a good holiday, and thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

...Anything new on Overholt, etc.?